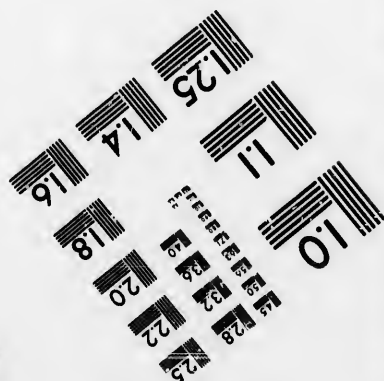
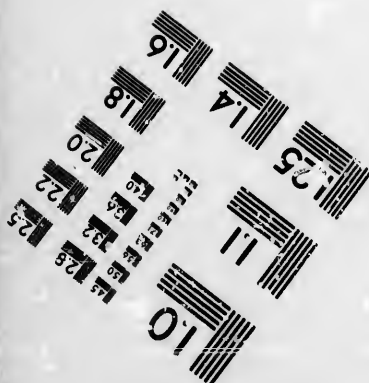
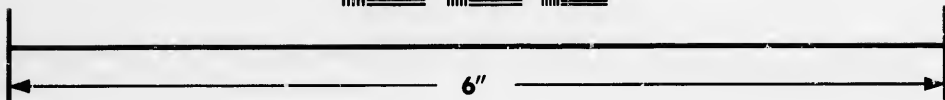
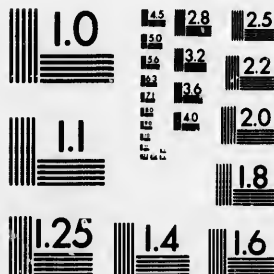


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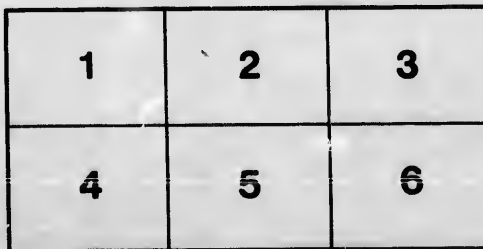
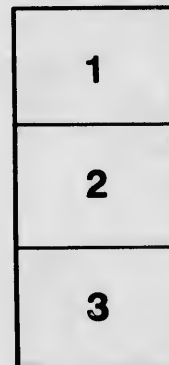
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# THE COUNTY TOWN QUESTION.

—TO THE—

## RATE PAYERS

### OF THE COUNTY OF LINCOLN.

GENTLEMEN,—

By a By-Law of the County Council you are called upon to decide by your votes on the 25th day of November instant whether you are in favor of burthening yourselves with an indefinite amount of Taxation, for the purpose of destroying the Town of Niagara in order to further the aggrandizement of the Town of St. Catharines.

The Legislature of the Province has authorized this proceeding, and whatever I may think of the principles involved in that authority, my duty now is confined within the clear bounds of taking care that such means are placed in the hands of each of you as will enable you all to form an intelligent and correct judgment upon the question submitted for your decision.

Most of you, I take for granted, are acquainted with the early history of this County, and many of you, I am persuaded, attach at least some small importance to historical recollections. Niagara was one of the earliest points selected for settlement by the pioneers of Upper Canada. On its plains the loyalists, expatriated from their possessions by the rebellion of 1776, commenced that conflict with the wilderness

which resulted in producing the pleasant homes and fertile fields in which you now live at peace and in plenty. The little town of Niagara (then Newark) became a thriving community, was occupied for a few years as the capital of Upper Canada, and the industry and money of its inhabitants were freely expended in opening up the rest of the county. When the war of 1812 broke out it found the community devoted to their country, and ere its close many of them had perished by the bullets of the enemy, and all of them lost their entire earthly possessions in the smoking ruins to which the ruthless enemy reduced the Town; and a long and weary time they had to wait before the payment of the war losses afforded them some slight compensation for the misery and ruin into which the great calamity plunged them. They managed to re-build their town, however, by degrees, and the Court House and Gaol, burnt down by the red hot shot of the Americans, was replaced by a new one, the site for which was given by an Inhabitant of the Town, and the lion's share of the cost of which was paid by the inhabitants of the Town and Township of Niagara. You will not lose sight

1762

of the fact that from the nature of things, until the rest of the county was in progress of settlement, the taxes required for public purposes were all paid by the people of the Town and Township of Niagara, and therefore you can have little doubt that the leading roads and bridges, originally opened out and constructed, were so opened out and constructed at their expense. By degrees the disproportion between the Town and Township and the rest of the county diminished with the advance of settlement, but even so late as the year 1828. (the earliest period, I regret to say, at which our perfect records commence) it is manifest that Niagara Town and Township paid over one-third of the entire assessments upon this county. In that year the population of the several localities, and the property assessed in each, were as follows:—

Population.	Localities.	Ass'd Prop.
2876	Niag twn & twosp.	\$233,504
1727	Grantham & St Cath	116,100
1610	Clinton	95,780
1495	Grimsby	91,444
1202	Loath	64,932
1006	Gainsborough	61,924
259	Caistor	15,512
10175	Totals	\$679,196

Twelve years later, namely, in the year 1840, the proportions were somewhat altered, but the Town and Township of Niagara still contributed very nearly one-third of the entire assessments imposed upon the localities constituting this county, as you will perceive by the following table for that year:—

Population.	Localities.	Ass'd Prop.
4085	Niag twn & twosp.	\$293,872
3243	Grantham & St Cath	187,752
2135	Clinton	137,140
1835	Grimsby	117,896
1492	Gainsborough	89,888
1329	Loath	81,344
605	Caistor	30,656
14724	Totals	\$938,548

Previous to this, namely, in the year 1836, the Saint Catharines people began an agitation for "the removal of the County Town," assigning as their grounds that the Court House was at an inconvenient distance from the Town, and their desire to have it in a central position. The subject was debated some years in Parliament and out of it, and finally to remove every ground of complaint which they had the power to remove, and for a final settlement of the question, the inhabitants of the Town at an

expense to themselves of some thirty thousand dollars, erected a new Court House in the centre of the Town, which Court House is still as good as new, and is pronounced by all competent judges the very best in Upper Canada. This Court House has been used for County purposes ever since the Act authorizing it was passed, namely, in 1847, and the only expense it has been to the County was the sum of two hundred dollars a year, spontaneously voted to the Town by the Council, which sum has been this year reduced to \$150, and the Town authorized me, at the last Session of the County Council, to relinquish the entire payment, providing Niagara is continued as the County Town.

The facts I have cited show, I think, that Niagara deserves neither hard nor harsh treatment from the County of Lincoln on the subject of the County Town. They shew that during a period of sixty years the Town and Township paid the great bulk of the Taxes imposed upon the localities constituting the County of Lincoln, and they shew many other things which will have due weight upon the mind of every man of ordinary feeling.

From 1840 to 1856 Niagara continued to grow until the population of the Town, in that year, reached 4,000 souls, and its assessed property was entered on the rolls at the sum of \$1,925,333. Since the year last named a succession of adverse circumstances have prostrated it, and it needs but the blow you are asked to inflict to complete its ruin.

On the other hand, the construction of the Welland Canal, and the prodigious and annual outlay therewith connected, have built up St. Catharines and the Township of Grantham to a height which we all rejoice to see. But this result has been accomplished by the expenditure of upwards of seven millions of dollars of Provincial money—one eighth of the entire debt of the Province—and a portion of the cost of every hat we place upon our heads, of every piece of foreign leather with which we cover our feet, of every yard of cloth with which we clothe our persons, of every glass of "O be joyful" we imbibe, of every pinch of snuff we inhale, and of every cloud of tobacco smoke we exhale, goes toward the \$420,000 necessary to pay the annual interest on this outlay. Now we might have thought that

*\* I regret to have to say, that the Town is still indebted Eight thousand Dollars of this sum, for which they are now paying their creditors ten per cent, or \$800 per annum.*

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a community having the whole Province so largely tributary to their advancement and likely to continue so for ages, would have thanked Heaven for the blessing they enjoy, and been content therewith. But no—having one great good thing is not enough,—they covet also a monopoly of the little good things. Niagara has the County Town, therefore, say they, down with Niagara!

They have dropped the "territorial centre" they used to talk so glibly about, and they have been shamed out of repeating the absurd stories they circulated last winter to the effect that the public buildings at Niagara were "dilapidated."

And the point upon which they now chiefly lay stress is this:—that unless a new gaol is built certain alterations recommended by the Prison Inspectors in the old one will of necessity have to be made. Mr. Rykert tells you in his address of last week that the inspectors insist upon these alterations, and he is so deeply affected by the contemplation of such a sad catastrophe, that he closes his address to you with this most lugubrious anticipation—"If by your vote the By-Law is not approved, I AM AFRAID the Council will be COMPELLED to take steps to comply with the Inspectors Report."

It is distressing to think that Mr. Rykert should be afraid of anything, especially of what is in my poor judgment the mere shadow of a shade. Who are the Inspectors that they should FRIGHTEN members of Parliament, that they should INSIST upon a merely local matter, on the propriety and necessity of which we have a thousand more competent judges than they are within the limits of our own County? There are now nine prisoners in the Gaol—the average number for the past three or four years has been ten and a fraction, the number of rooms and cells can accommodate treble the number, and there is unoccupied space enough in the upper floor for scores more, and to look after the comfort and safety of these half score persons, we have officially employed the Sheriff, the Gaoler, the Turnkey and Matron, a committee of the Bench of Magistrates, the County Council in a body, in the course of the year no less than 144 Grand Jurors, and to put the apex on the pyramid which forms the massive guardianship of these prisoners, we have half-a-dozen Prison Inspectors, two of whom visit the Gaol on a pleasure trip once a year each, stop within its precincts from twenty to twenty-five minutes at each visit, and then pass away to write worthless reports, and

draw from the public treasury by way of salaries and travelling expenses some sixteen or twenty thousand dollars! The whole thing would read like a wretched farce, were it not so costly.

Some importance is attached to a letter signed E. A. Meredith addressed to the Warden, and dated Quebec 14th July, 1862, in which the writer says:—"Unless the County Council take measures, to carry out the views of the Board respecting the Gaol, there will be no alternative for the Board but to place the matter in the hands of the Executive Government."

Upon this I must take permission to say that it reads to me very much as if it had been got up for a special meeting of the County Council which it was rumored was intended to be held about the time of its date, but be that as it may, what is there in the Executive Government for the people of this County to be afraid of? The members of the present Government have always held as a cardinal principle, that the people have a right to regulate their own affairs in their own way without Executive interference, and is anybody so foolish as to imagine that the Executive Government would compel the people of this County to expend a large sum of money unnecessarily, to satisfy the crochets of half a dozen Prison Inspectors? Why, it is precisely the Executive Government in whose hands the County Council itself has placed the matter. In a memorial addressed to the Government at the October Session in 1861, the Council remonstrated against the expenditure recommended by the Prison Inspectors as totally unnecessary, because of the small number of prisoners, the adequate number of cells, and further, quoting from the Memorial—

"Because the Gaol itself, and the Fence around it, are in as good a condition and as secure, as the circumstances of the Gaol and its inmates render necessary," and also

"Because your Petitioners are ready at all times to make such additions and repairs as time and chance of circumstances may render advisable."

Does any one suppose that the Government will decide that the County Council do not understand the matter a little better than the Prison Inspectors? Any such supposition is a libel on the common sense of its members.

The Grand Jury at the recent Assizes made a presentment on the state of the Gaol, from which the following is an extract:—

"The Grand Jury proceeded to visit the



Gaol; and beg to report their high satisfaction with the scrupulously clean and comfortable appearance of every part of it, as also of the safety of the prisoners, of which there are eleven at present undergoing the sentence of the law, all bearing testimony to the kind treatment they uniformly receive at the hands of Mr. Hamilton, the Gaoler, of whose fitness for his situation the Grand Jury cannot speak too favorably."

Now, I should like to know what more can be desired by or for the prisoners.— They are comfortable, clean, decently fed, safe, with plenty of room, and the Gaol contains so many cells that those people who have a PENCHANT for classification can make a separate and distinct class of each individual prisoner.

I will only further say upon this point, that the Executive Government is the last body in the world to whom I should be afraid to refer the entire question raised by the Prison Inspectors, and I do not think that any of you will participate in the fears which shake the nerves of Mr. Rykert.

So much for the bugaboo of the Prison Inspectors.

You have been told long stories about the great saving which would be effected by "removal" in sending Jurors to the County Town. Upon this point I invite your attention to the figures. Wherever the Courts are held the pay to the Jurors for their daily attendance will be the same, and consequently it is only in the number of miles travelled by the Sheriff, in summoning Jurors, for which that officer receives eight cents per mile, and in the number of miles travelled by Jurors to attend the County Town, for which each receives ten cents per mile, that any charge can possibly be made. Well, the Jurors who attended the Spring and Fall Assizes, and the four Courts of Quarter Sessions, in 1861, were paid for 7,804 miles travel, at ten cents per mile,.....\$780 60  
And the Sheriff, for summoning all the Jurors to attend the said Courts, was paid for 2,758 miles travel, at eight cents per mile.. 220 64

Making the entire annual expense of sending Jurors to Niagara..\$1,001 24

Now any one will see clearly, who will take the trouble to make the calculation, that were the Court House in the very territorial centre of the County, the uttermost saving that could possibly be effected would not exceed one-fourth of the amount, or \$250 a year, while, if it were located in St.

Catharines, such saving could not go beyond a seventh of the whole sum, or about \$140 a year. And yet, to save this trifling sum, you are asked to spend scores of thousands of dollars! It is like asking one of you to cut off both his legs in order to save the pain of a corn on his big toe.

The only other economical result which its advocates allege "removal" will produce is a saving to suitors and lawyers. The very few cases tried at the different courts show that very few of you have any interest in this part of the case; but most of you I dare say have had sufficient experience to be fully convinced that lawyer's bills will be equally formidable under every conceivable state of circumstances, and that all the losses which all the profession have sustained by the location of the County Town from its first establishment at Niagara until now, might be put in the vest pocket of one of you without making him the heavier by a single ounce.

I have gone through all the reasons I have seen or heard urged by the advocates of "removal" in favor of their views, and I shall proceed to submit my ideas of the effect of your votes, in case you pass the bill submitted for your decision by the County Council.

In the first place you will completely ruin the Town of Niagara, and, in consequence, seriously diminish the valuation of taxable property in the Township of Niagara, and remember that, precisely in the proportion that you impair the sources of revenue for county purposes in these two municipalities so you will inevitably increase the taxation upon the other Municipalities of the county.

2ndly. You will plunge yourselves into debt by the erection of new Public Buildings, to an extent and for a period of time of which you can at present form but a very imperfect notion, and when, too, the County taxation from other causes will be largely increased; and

3rdly. You will considerably increase your annual County expenditure, apart from the mere cost of the buildings.

The first of these positions requires no illustration—its obvious truth is patent to the common sense of every man. The correctness of the two last I proceed to demonstrate.

The Town of St. Catharines tempts you to pass this By-Law by offering to "give to the County of Lincoln the free use of a suitable Court House and Public offices so long as they may require the same to be used for County purposes." The phraseology is

## THE COUNTY TOWN QUESTION.

vague, and the word "suitable" is susceptible of a variety of interpretations. But let that pass. The offer may, or it may not, be carried out in good faith, and the people of St. Catharines may or may not sanction the offer made by their Corporation when they come to vote upon the By-Law which it will be necessary for them to pass before they can embark in the requisite expenditures. We will assume for the sake of the argument that everything to this extent is done *EX REGLE*. Then comes your work, the erection of the Gaol, and forthwith the formidable Prison Inspector steps in and takes the entire control thereof, and of the County purse, into their own hands. They will tell you in their magnificent contempt for the burdens they put on other people's shoulders—"This is our duty by act of Parliament and the structure you put up must be in accordance with our notions of the fitness of things, and with our advanced ideas of the style of architecture suited to the present time." You have no such thing made to you as any tangible offer for a site, and the Saints value land so highly in their diggings that were you to cover it with silver dollars they would tell you to double your offer before they could think of it even. Then comes the cost of the building itself—and this will be any sum you choose to believe from twenty to a hundred thousand dollars. So various are the estimates you hear.— One rule you can accept as the invariable standard for public buildings in Canada, that the highest estimate is always far exceeded by the actual cost. When the Niagara Board of Police erected the present Court House they expected to complete it for \$12,000 but it cost them more than double that sum. When the people of Welland tried the experiment of erecting County buildings they calculated upon accomplishing everything for \$25,000, while the actual cost was four times that amount, and when the Province began its venture upon public buildings at Ottawa, an appropriation of \$900,000 was considered amply sufficient for every purpose, but we are now told that the actual cost will fall little short of four millions. Be sure that if you begin to dabble in bricks and mortar your experience will be just as dearly bought as that of everybody else has been, and when the Inspectors astound you with their Bastille-like plans, the massiveness of their stone walls and the grandeur of their system of architecture, will anybody at St. Catharines remonstrate with them, or alarm you, about the cost?

In consequence of the assumption of the

Queenston and Grimsby Road as a County work, and by virtue of the By-Laws passed with regard thereto, the municipalities through which it passes will henceforth have to maintain it as a MACADAMIZED ROAD, at their own expense, while the annual payment to the Government for interest and principal, of the £12,000 borrowed from the Consolidated Loan Fund, amounting to \$3,840 per annum, will, after the present year require to be paid annually for the next 24 years out of the proceeds of the County taxes, and the Government have a further claim upon the County on a bond for \$4,000 given for the purchase of said Road, with many years interest thereon, and a still further claim for some land damages. Now the County taxes for the last six years have averaged \$1.76 for each head of a family. Next year that taxation, for the reasons just stated will be about doubled, and from the condition of the Provincial Finances it is more than likely that some sources at present contributing to Municipal revenue will be diverted to Provincial uses, and that several expenditures now partly borne upon Provincial funds will be altogether thrown upon the direct taxes. You are the best judges whether in addition to these burdens, certain and probable, you can afford to double them again for the sake of erecting unnecessary buildings,

Another charge with which you will be called upon to grapple, is sketched in a clause of the County Town Act of last session, which for many reasons I shall content myself at present by quoting without comment. The 4th section of that act provides as follows:—

"Before the Governor shall issue his proclamation giving effect to the said By-Law it shall be referred to arbitrators, to be selected and chosen as is provided in section 358 of chapter 54 of the Consolidated Statutes for Upper Canada (which said section for the purposes of this act, shall be taken as a portion thereof so far as the same is applicable to this act) to ascertain and decide whether the Corporation of the Town of Niagara is entitled to claim any and what compensation from the Corporation of the County\* of Lincoln, for, or by reason of the erection of the buildings at present used for County purposes; and in the event of the arbitrators awarding that compensation should be paid to the Town of Niagara, the amount so awarded shall be paid or secured to the said Corporation of the Town of Niagara before the issuing of the said Proclamation."

\*A portion of the Court House Buildings

In order that you may have the whole of this part of the case, before you, I append a copy of such parts of the sub-sections of section 358 of chapter 54 of the Consolidated Statutes of Upper Canada, as are applicable to the case:—

“1. Each party shall appoint an Arbitrator and give notice thereof in writing to the other party; and when the other party is a Corporation, the notice shall be given to the head of the Corporation.

2. The two arbitrators appointed by or for the parties shall choose a third arbitrator

3. If for one month after having received such notice the party notified omits appointing an arbitrator; and if for ten days after the second arbitrator has been appointed, the two arbitrators omit to appoint a third arbitrator then the Governor in Council may appoint an arbitrator for the party or arbitrators in default.

8. The appointment of all arbitrators shall be in writing and (in this case) under the Corporate seal and authenticated in like manner as a By-Law.

9. The arbitrators on behalf of a Municipal Corporation shall be appointed by the Council thereof, or by the Head thereof if authorised by a By-Law of the Council.

13. In the case of any award under this act which does not require adoption by the Council, the arbitrators shall take, and immediately after the making of the award shall file with the Clerk of the Council for the inspection of all parties interested, full notes of the oral evidence given on the reference, and also all documentary evidence or a copy thereof, and in case they proceed partly on a view or any knowledge or skill possessed by themselves or by any of them, they shall also put in writing a statement thereof sufficiently full to allow the Court to form a judgment of the weight which should be attached thereto.

14. Every award shall be in writing under the hands of all or two of the arbitrators, and shall be subject to the jurisdiction of any of the Superior Courts of Law or Equity as if made on a submission by a Bond containing an agreement for making the submission a rule or order of such Court; and in the cases provided for by the last preceding sub-section, the Court shall consider not only the legality of the award but the merits as they

*was solely for Town use, and the cost thereof would probably be from five to six thousand dollars, leaving the cost of the portions appropriated to County uses twenty four thousand dollars, the annual interest upon which at 7 per cent is \$1680, and the amount yearly paid to the Town by the County in the name of rent was \$100; the other \$100 being for other considerations.*

appear from the proceedings so filed as aforesaid, and may call for additional evidence to be taken in any manner the Court directs, and may, either without taking such evidence, or after taking such evidence, set aside the award, or remit the matter referred or any of them from time to time to the consideration and determination of the same arbitrators, or to any other persons whom the Court may appoint as prescribed in the “Common Law Procedure Act,” and fix the time within which such further or new award shall be made, or the Court may itself increase or diminish the amount awarded or otherwise modify the award, as the justice of the case may seem to the Court to require.”

But the expense arising from the buildings large as that will doubtless be, will be surpassed by the increased annual cost of supporting the inmates of these buildings. Let us look at the probabilities a little.

Those who have paid any attention to the course of events in other portions of the Province, are well acquainted with the strife and turmoil which have arisen in various localities where the County Buildings have been situated in large and populous towns. Take, for instance, Toronto and the counties therewith connected. There, for years the counties were saddled with the expenses attending the imprisonment of thousands of offenders against the municipal regulations of the city, and it was only after years of angry contention, after the passage of sundry Acts of Parliament to define the relative duties of city and county, amended and explained by subsequent acts, and after a multitude of costly and irritating arbitrations and suits at law and in equity, that anything like a satisfactory solution of their difficulties was arrived at.

Now St. Catharines is a populous town, wherein a great deal of business is done, and a very brisk business indeed is carried on in its Police Office. I have before me at this moment a “Schedule of Convictions returned to the Clerk of the Peace of the United Counties of Lincoln and Welland up to November Sessions 1854,” published in conformity to the Statute. These convictions were all made between the 1st day of July and the 17th day of November in the year stated, and an analysis of the contents of the schedule will give you an idea of the real cause of the anxiety of some of the Saints to have the Gaol within the limits of their Town, and of what you may expect if you are verdant enough to place it there. The Schedule contains in all 348 convictions, and of these 319 were

made by the Mayor and Magistrates of Saint Catharines alone, and but 29 by all the other magistrates of the Counties of Lincoln and Welland. Of the 319 St. Catharines convictions, 7 only took place under Provincial Law, the other 312 were made under Saint Catharines law; and of these no less than 70 offenders were sentenced to imprisonment in the Lock-up, 67 of them for 10 days, and 3 of them for five days, each.— It must be obvious to you, therefore, that if you facilitate the operations of their judicial system by giving them the Gaol for a lock-up, they will fill it and keep it filled— at the expense of the County. You will readily estimate what an immense difference would be made in your annual taxation, if instead of maintaining ten prisoners at Niagara you had four or five times that number to support in Saint Catharines.

And this was the case, remember, when Saint Catharines was much less populous, and much more moderate in its pretensions, than it is in this year of our Lord. Now, it is contemplating the probability of becoming a city, and is actually considering the propriety of appointing a salaried Police Magistrate. As it increases in dignity it will of course be more rigid in its morals, and as its municipal legislation becomes more allied in principle to these standards of excellence, "the blue laws of Connecticut," what can be expected from a population of 19,000, when in less straight-laced times and from a population of about 4,500, we were furnished with 319 magisterial convictions in about four months! Why, the mere cost of printing the convictions by St. Catharines magistrates under St. Catharines laws, cost the County of Lincoln more money than the rent paid by it to the Town of Niagara for the use of the County buildings!

One other cause of increased annual expenditure you will find in your County officials. I need not tell you how readily human nature adapts itself to its surroundings, with what facility it yields to the exigencies they create. Well, St. Catharines is a flourishing place, and land and house of the same size, accommodation and use as similar properties in Niagara, are held at five times the value; while social life is correspondingly exalted and exacting, and therefore expensive. Do you suppose, if you place your officers there, that the very first claim upon your County Council will not be for an increase of their salaries, and that the Council will not find it impossible to do other than yield to the claim?

There are other causes which will add to the annual expenses of the County, which your own reflections will readily point out.

These, then, will be some of the inevitable effects of your own acts if you vote for the By-Law placed before you by the County Council.

I have now to state to you a fact which will, I think, dissipate all the fears which have been excited in your minds, relative to the Prison Inspectors, and the expenditures they recommend about the Gaol. The Town Council of Niagara has already built and maintained for sixteen years, at their own expense, for your use the best Court House in Upper Canada, and they have offered to your County Council, through me, to forego the paltry pittance of 150 dollars per annum now paid to them under the name of rent, &c. More than that; at a meeting of the Corporation, held this day, the following resolutions were unanimously passed:—

"1.—That, in order to relieve the minds of the Rate-payers of the County of Lincoln from any apprehension they may entertain that in the event of Niagara being continued as the County Town, they will be subjected to a large expense by reason of certain additions to, and alterations in, the Gaol, recommended to be made by the Provincial Prison Inspectors, this Council hereby guarantees the County of Lincoln against the expenditure of a single farthing of the cost of such additions and alterations, and pledges itself that if they are legally compelled to be made this Council will defray the entire expense which in such case would be imposed upon the said County.

"2.—That the Mayor and Clerk do attach their signatures and the seal of this Council to a copy of the foregoing resolution, and file the same in the Office of the Clerk of the County Council."

There, Gentlemen, you have the whole case presented to you as clearly as I can illustrate it. I have stated nothing as a fact which I do not believe to be literally true, nor have I offered any opinion which I am not convinced is logically drawn from premises fairly stated. And the sum of the whole matter is this, that if you vote AGAINST the By-Law you will not be subject to a penny's expense connected with your County Buildings—which will amply serve all needful purposes for the next 50 years—while if you vote FOR it you will plunge yourselves and your posterity into "a sea of troubles" of the overwhelming tides of which you can at present form a very slight conception.

When on the point of closing this address I have had placed before me the St. Catharines "Constitutional" of the 6th instant in which the editor says:—

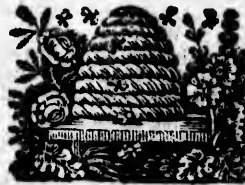
"We warn the electors to beware of the underhand measures that are being taken by certain parties in Niagara to make it appear that St. Catharines is trying to aggrandize herself at their expense."

Who the parties, or what the measures, adverted to, I know not, and care not to enquire, but there has never been anything "underhand," there will not be anything "underhand" in the conduct of any parties in Niagara upon this subject. The whole cry about the "removal of the County Town" originated in, and has been continued by St. Catharines. It was in its inception, as it has been to this day, a large portion of the political capital of all their aspirants for the representation of the County. The conflict has continued for twenty-

*\* I except the late Mr. Merritt from this remark; he had plenty of capital without this hobby, cared but little about it, and has often told me that if he had his choice between a good sized Saw Mill and the County Town, he would prefer the Mill.*

six years, but it has been a fair stand up fight, and from its very nature there cannot be anything underhand in the conduct of it. The value to the County of the victory thus far obtained by Niagara, is proved by the fact that up to this time, it has been more lightly taxed for County purposes than any other Municipality of the same wealth and population in Upper Canada. We trust yet in the goodness of our cause—in the soundness of the "old ship" in which we are embarked. We will fight the battle to the last bullet and the last charge of powder; and if Destiny decrees, that the timbers shall give way, and all the batteries with which Reason, Law and Equity can supply us fail to secure a triumph, we may sink, indeed, but we will at least go down with drums beating and colors flying, and with the heartfelt consciousness that we have done our duty to ourselves and to you.

I have the honor to be,  
Gentlemen,  
Yours, obediently  
**JOHN SIMPSON.**  
Niagara, November 8, 1862.



**S. C. SMITH, PRINTER AND AUCTIONEER, NIAGARA, C. W.**

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